Council Proceedings.

Council Chamber, January 23rd, 1883.

A meeting of the City Council was held last night, and in the absence of Mayor Meredith Ald. Labatt was called to the chair. Aldermen Birrell, Hunt, Hyman, O'Meara, Cowan, Skinner, Browne, Stringer, Moore, Boyd and Becher were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS.

From James Marshall, asking to be appointed city chimney sweet. No. 3.

From P. Laughnane and R. H. Elliott, applying for the position of Weigh Scales Clerk. No. 3.

From Ann Branden asking remission of taxes, Mary Connelly and Mrs. Kelly to the same effect. No. 1.

From James E. Belcher, asking exemption from taxes on his bowling alley and two new billiard tables added to his establishment. No. 3.

From Mrs. Jane Hyam, in reference to a license for a coffee room kept by her. John Doty, to the same effect. No. 3.

From H. W. Blynn, for remission of water tax charged in excess. No. 2.

From Panton & Dayton, complaining of the escape of sewer gas. No. 2 with power.

From Robert Smith, and other residents of Ridout street, asking for a reduction in the street watering rate. No. 3.

From Arthur Wallace, claiming $50 for extra work performed by him. No. 1.

Ald. Hyman verbally reported that the Bills for the Bonus By-lay and to issue debentures to the extent of $175,000 had passed the Railroad Committee of the House without opposition, and that the expenses of deputation to Toronto were $18.80. No. 1.

From H. W. Blinn, against street watering tax. No. 3.

His Worship now arrived and took the chair.

BY-LAW.

A by-law providing for the assessment of lawns, etc., as other property was read a first and second time.

On the third reading, Ald. Hyman moved, seconded by Ald. Moore, that the by-law be referred to No. 1 Committee, and be read a third time at next meeting.

Yeas—Birrell, Labatt, Hunt, Hyman, O'Meara, Stringer and Moore.

Nays—Cowan, Skinner, Browne, Boyd, and Becher.

NUMBER TWO.

Ald. Brown (Chairman) reported from No. 2 Committee as follows:—(1) Your Committee beg leave to report the following accounts as having been passed for payment:—Commissioner's pay roll, $35.75; James Wright & Co., $63.74; (2) that the account of D. McPhie ($11.45), and Wm. Spence, 75 cents, were referred to the City Engineer with power, and the account of T. F. Kingsmill, for carpeting Police Magistrate's and Police Court Clerk's office, amounting to $68.38, was referred to the Engineer and Chairman to report at the next meeting of committee; (3) your Committee would recommend the Council to procure 200 cords of stone for breaking purposes, and that your Committee be empowered to call for tenders for same in quantities of not less than twenty cords.

The report was taken up clause by clause.

The first and second clauses were adopted.

The third clause was amended by reducing the amount of stone to be tendered for to five cords instead of twenty, and the report as amended was adopted.

Ald. Hyman moved, seconded by Ald. Skinner, that the Council Committees be requested to apply to the Council for appropriations for 1883. Carried.

NUMBER ONE.

Ald. Hyman (chairman) reported from No. 1 Committee as follows:—(1) that the usual accounts be paid; (2) that the petitions of Jane Insell and Janet McInnes, for remission of taxes, be granted; (3) that the petitions of Sarah Tweedie and M. Shrieves, for tax remissions, be filed; (4) that the petition of William Trafford, for remission of dog tax, be filed; (5) that C. J. Miors' assessment on income be reduced from $600 to $500; (6) your Committee beg to report progress on the petitions of Ellen Fletcher, Ellen Finnigan, Mrs. Nichol and Mrs. Brown; (7) your Committee also beg to report progress on the petition of E. T. Essery and others, and of John Peters, acting Police Magistrate.

Report adopted.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES.

Ald. Birrell moved, seconded by Ald. Hunt, that a Special Committee be appointed for the purpose of revising the by-law governing the municipal officers and offices; also to report on the advisability of any changes being made in the mode of the collection of taxes or any of the other city officers; and that this committee shall have power to examine any of the employes of this city in regard to matters relating to their duties, and that the following comprise the committee:—Ald. Becher, Hyman, Birrell and Skinner. Carried.

WEIGH SCALES.

Ald. Hyman moved, seconded by Ald. O'Meara, that the weigh scales be put up for public tender on the 27th, that the highest or any tender be not necessarily accepted, and that No. 3 Committee prepare details.

Ald. Hunt withdrew his name as seconder of the motion, and Ald. O'Meara assumed the place instead.

Ald. Boyd moved in amendment, seconded by Ald. Hunt, that the scales be sold at public auction.

The amendment was lost and the motion was carried.

SIGNING CHEQUES.

On motion of Ald Birrell, seconded by Ald. Becher, the Chairman of No. 1 Committee was authorized to sign cheques in the absence of His Worship the Mayor.

FISH STALLS.

It was decided to sell the fish stalls on the 27th inst. Carried.

THE BALLOT.

Ald. Hunt moved, seconded by Ald. Birrell, that the by-law regarding appointment of officers by ballot be repealed. Carried.

Yeas — Birrell, Labatt, Hunt, Hyman, O'Meara, Moore, Becher.

Nays—Ald. Cowan, Stringer, Skinner, Browne and Boyd.

RELIEF.

Ald. Stringer moved, seconded by Ald. Skinner, that, in view of the fact that a large amount of money is expended annually for the relief of the city poor, and that the object for which the grant is given has not been attained, owing to a defective system. it being a well-known fact that those most deserving assistance in many instances have never been reached, and many, who are unworthy, succeed in deceiving those whose duty it is to give relief, and this Council being desirous to carry out municipal reform in every department where it is possible, request No. 3 Committee to take up the matter, and that the following members be added to it to form a Special Committee:—Ald. Skinner, Becher, Hyman and Birrell.

Referred to No 3 Committee.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Ald Hunt—That tenders be advertised for the building and completion of a wing to the city hospital at a cost not exceeding $3,000; also that tenders be called for the erection of an addition to the present hospital—the same to be used as lecture and consultation room—at a cost of $1,000. also for tenders for putting in boilers, piping, etc., necessary for heating the Hospital with steam.

Ald. Cowan—That this Council petition the Local Legislature at its present session to amend the Municipal Institutions Act regarding the appointment and functions of Police Commissioners; (2) we recommend that the Board of Police Commissioners consist of the Mayor of the corporation, the Police Magistrate and a member of the Board of Aldermen, to be elected from amongst themselves at the first meeting of the Council in January, after the municipal elections of each year; (3) that the power of the Police Commissioners be restricted so far as the expenditure of money is concerned, inasmuch that the Commissioners are only to have the right to recommend the expenditure, leaving the confirmation thereof to be dealt with by the Council.

Ald. Skinner—That a by-law be submitted to the ratepayers on the 25th of February to ratify the issuing of debentures to the amount of $175,000 for city purposes.

Adjourned.